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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13-19 have been objected to as having claim numbers and dependencies that require correction. Claims 13-19 have been cancelled.

Claims 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as containing terms that lack sufficient antecedent basis. Claim 7 has been amended to correct antecedence and Claim 9 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-2, 9, and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,775,239 to Akita et al. ("Akita"). In addition, Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akita. In addition, Claims 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akita in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,484 to Agrawal et al. ("Agrawal"). In addition, Claims 8 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akita in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,629 to Rubino et al. ("Rubino"). In addition, Claims 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akita in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,810,046 to Abbas et al. ("Abbas"). Finally, Claims 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akita, Abbas, and Agrawal.

The claims have been amended with a view of better defining the invention having regard to the Examiner's comments. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the amended claims in view of the following comments.

The Applicant's invention pertains to heterogeneous networks that carry ATM traffic over an MPLS core (i.e., an MPLS network between two ATM networks). The Applicant's invention is directed toward fault notification in such networks. In particular, the Applicant's invention provides fault notification as follows:

1. If there is a failure in the MPLS network, the affected ATM networks are notified via ATM OAM cells;
2. If there is a failure in one of the ATM networks, the far-end ATM network is notified via ATM OAM AIS cells that are carried transparently over the MPLS network; and,

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3. If there is a failure in the equipment that interfaces to both the MPLS and ATM networks, the ATM network is notified via ATM OAM AIS cells and the MPLS network is notified via MPLS OAM packets.

The Applicant's invention provides the capability of detecting and responding to faults in an MPLS network that carries traffic between ATM networks attached thereto. This is advantageous as any faults in the MPLS network would result in disruption of service to the traffic being carried between the attached ATM networks. Thus, the present invention improves the availability of ATM over MPLS communications.

In view of the Examiner's comments and with a view to better defining the invention, Claim 1 has been amended to specify a fault in a label switched path ("LSP") of a second MPLS network located between first and third ATM networks. In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to include the relevant limitation of Claims 3 and 8. Claims 3 and 8 have been cancelled accordingly. Furthermore, Claims 2 and 4-7 have been updated to reflect the amendments to Claim 1.

Having amended Claim 1 as noted above, the Applicant believes that amended Claim 1 is patentable over Akita as this reference does not teach or suggest the subject matter of amended Claim 1. In particular, Akita does not teach or suggest that element of amended Claim 1 that recites: "detecting said fault related to said LSP of said second MPLS communication network by monitoring connectivity verification (CV), forward defect indicator (FDI), and backward defect indicator (BDI) packets of said second MPLS OAM protocol". In addition, the Applicant believes that Claims 2 and 4-7, being dependent on amended Claim 1, and adding patentable features thereto, are also patentable.

In addition, new Claims 20-30 have been added with a view to better defining the invention. New Claims 20-27 are directed towards a method for notifying network nodes about a disruption of service while new Claims 28-30 are directed towards an ATM/MPLS edge switch for notifying an ATM network of a failure in a LSP. The Applicant believes that these new claims are fully supported by the specification (e.g., FIGS. 4-7 and pages 14-22).

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Please note that Claims 9 and 13-19 have been cancelled without prejudice in order to expedite prosecution of this application. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue these cancelled claims in a continuing application or otherwise.

No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

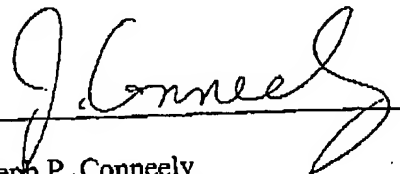
The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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